

# HOW TO START A COMPOSTING PROGRAM AT YOUR SCHOOL

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# FIRST THINGS FIRST

- Get support from the top
- Rally support from all groups that will be involved
- Seek input from all groups
- Work with teachers to incorporate instruction from Action for A Cleaner Tomorrow curriculum
  - CAN YOU DIG IT? – page 39
  - LOOK IN YOUR GARBAGE CAN – page 67
  - MY BAG – page 79
  - RECYCLE IT – page 93
  - A ROTTEN IDEA – page 107

# GET TEACHERS ON BOARD

- Work with teachers to incorporate instruction from Action for A Cleaner Tomorrow curriculum
  - CAN YOU DIG IT? – page 39
    - 6-3.1 Compare the characteristic structures of invertebrate animals (including sponges, segmented worms, echinoderms, mollusks and arthropods) and vertebrate animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.)
    - 6-4.7 Explain how solar energy affects Earth's atmosphere and surface (land and water)
  - LOOK IN YOUR GARBAGE CAN – page 67
    - 5-3.6 Explain how human activity (including conservation efforts and pollution) has affected the land and the oceans of Earth.
    - 7-4.6 Classify resources as renewable or nonrenewable and explain the implications of their depletion and the importance of conservation.
  - A ROTTEN IDEA – page 107
    - 1-2.5 Explain how distinct environments throughout the world support the life of different types of plants.
    - 1-4.1 Recognize the composition of Earth (including rocks, sand, soil and water).

# SET UP YOUR INFRASTRUCTURE

- Do you want to do vermicomposting in addition to having an outdoor compost bin?
- Determine where to place containers for food scraps
- Clearly label bins
- Identify what can be composted
  - CAN YOU DIG IT? – page 39



# PLAN COLLECTION

- Determine location of containers
- Determine who will empty containers
- Work out details to make sure containers are emptied each day



# DETERMINE THE DESTINATION

- What kind of compost bin will you use?
- Where will your bin be located on the school grounds?
- Who will have the task of turning, watering and tending the compost pile.





# USE OF COMPOSTED MATERIALS

- Flower gardens
- Organic vegetable garden



# SHARING

- Questions
- Suggestions
- Ideas



Taylor's Elementary Green Step Web Site:

<http://teachers.greenville.k12.sc.us/sites/nkay/Pages/Green%20Steps%20Environmental%20Program.aspx>